

ALLIGATORS.
To Destroy Them Means an Addition to the Food Supply.
To show the strength and ability of an alligator, a party of us fishing for tarpon on the Myakka river caught a tarpon weighing 175 pounds, says a writer in Forest and Stream. The gentleman catching it proposed to have it mounted and in the evening left it up on the grass close to the place where the tracks of a large alligator were seen.

An alligator is a large duck hunter, and where the ducks feed and the gators live there is often a chance to see them hunting. My observations were made while tarpon fishing. A flock of ducks would feed along the stream. An alligator with only his head out (which in size and shape is something like a duck) would glide along until close to the ducks and then go under, and in a moment the duck would go under, and up would go the others.

In a few cases we have examined the stomachs of alligators, and there were ducks and a bunch of ducks' feathers from the size of your fist to twice that. We also have found pieces of wood worn smooth—always found this—showing that it is used in some way in digestion.

A friend who has a museum wanted a big alligator, so we set out to get him one. The captain of the yacht is an expert on fishing and gator hunting. We ran up in small boats to where the big ones live. The captain could call them but unfortunately on a steep bank, and the gator slid into deep water and not until I rigged a grapple with heavy sinker and tarpon hooks did we fish him out. He was eleven and a half feet long and must have weighed 400 pounds. In his stomach we found a drumstick about two and a half feet long, pieces of wood and a bunch of feathers.

The alligator is very easily killed if shot in the top of the head. We have twice with a rifle shot one there and, thinking him dead, have taken him into the boat to find shortly that he was much alive and that the bullet had glanced off. There was something doing until we could finish him.

There is a feeling that these reptiles should not be exterminated. This can only be based on the preservation of a part of nature, not on account of any benefit they are to man. They destroy valuable food, pigs, ducks and fish, and they also kill dogs.

There is much said and written about the preservation of fishawks, pelicans, cormorants, loons and gulls. Their preservation means the destruction of great quantities of food fish. This would not have been so important before the great amount of net fishing, which is already depleting all the waters of this country. To destroy these birds and reptiles may take away the attractive features for tourists, but it will add to our supply of food.

Trolley Road Terms.
Passengers who use the trolleys every day in the week often hear the motormen and conductors talking about "swings," "straightens," "monkeys" and the like and no doubt wonder what they are talking about. An inquisitive person asked one of the men the meaning of the various terms, and this is the answer he got: "You see, when a man starts with the company he bucks the list, or takes anything that comes up the pike. Then he may get a 'hold down,' taking the place of a man who is sick. In course of time he gets a 'run.' An 'early straight' is a run that goes right along, allowing fifty minutes for dinner, and finishes early in the afternoon. The 'early swing' is the run that makes the first two trips in the morning and lays off until afternoon to finish. Late 'straight' and 'swings' are runs of the same order, only they start later in the day. A 'monkey' is when you finish the run at the terminus of the line and then return over the same route to the barn."—Philadelphia Record.

New Japanese Monuments.
Three of the great pieces of artillery used at Port Arthur, including the biggest of the 600 guns captured, have been permanently mounted in front of the shrines of Ise. They were presented by the Japanese war office. A thanksgiving service was rendered to the imperial ancestors, whose assistance is regarded as having given victory to Japan's army. Major General Oshige mentioned in an address at the service that the number of prisoners taken by the Japanese in the war was 84,800, the number of rifles captured 110,548 and the number of swords and lances 4,455.

Fair and Square.
City Boarder—When you exchanged cattle with Farmer Smith, did you get a good pro quo? Farmer Jones—No. Neighbor Smith didn't try so much mean tricks on me. We swapped fair and even.—Baltimore American.

Aged Three, Reads Shakespeare.
At the age of three years and three months Charles Ross Buchanan, son of a farmer at St. Francisville, reads books that the majority of children do not read until they are ten years old. He has excited the notice of educators. Asked what kind of reading he liked best he replied: "I have just finished reading Shakespeare's 'As You Like It,' but I like Charles Dickens much better."
His mother, who was a schoolteacher at Vincennes, Ind., says Charles spends about four hours each day in reading to her. He has never been in school and seldom plays with other children. "Ever since he was able to talk he has possessed a craving for learning that has not only puzzled but at times has worried his father and me," said Mrs. Buchanan. "When reading the newspapers he must have details of all the world's happenings and often asks questions. He never has to be told a second time."
"Charles spoke his first words when he was six months old and four months later could talk fluently. He knew his alphabet even before he could talk plainly."—Chicago Times-Herald.

Ransay Island.
Ransay Island, in the Inner Hebrides, which lies between the mainland of Scotland and the Isle of Skye, has fallen to find a purchaser. The upset price of \$25,000 placed upon it. Its name is the Scandinavian for "the place of the red deer," and the shooting, with the mansion house and grounds at the southern end, constitute the chief value of the island. Near the northern end are the ruins of Brochel castle, the residence of its ancient lords, the MacLeods. In Celtic lore Ransay has a place, and in English literature it is mentioned in Samuel Johnson's "Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland."

THOMAS BAILEY ALDRICH.
His Perfect Light Touch and the Art in His Grave Poems.
It is a notable fact that while the name of Thomas Bailey Aldrich stands to the popular mind for the light touch in verse—a touch that few in our time have been able to equal in delicacy and attractiveness—the greater part of his verse ranges from the serious to the tragic. The subjects in a majority of cases are not those which the casual reader might expect from the author of many of his well known songs and episodes.

Aldrich's light touch seems to us most nearly perfect where the subject is apparently most personal, as in the unsurpassable lyric, "Forever and a Day."
I little know or care
If the blackbird on the bough
Is filling all the air
With his soft crocodyling now.
For she has gone away,
And when she comes back
The springtime in her look
The peachblow on her cheek
The laughter from the brook,
The blue from out the May,
And what she calls a week
Is forever and a day!

Such a lyric as this would seem to be as sure of keeping its place in English literature as any poem of its class that the centuries have sanctioned. The art in his grave poems is really in keeping with that of his lighter verse. But the reader is sure that the careful workmanship is not the result of mere artifice; that the poet's pure desire for perfection. There is no fling here for the sake of filling, but a conscientious seeking for the right phrase. He confessed once to a search of days for what he thought the absolutely right adjective to describe the cry of the sea gull, hitting at last upon the word "petulant," and this persistency was characteristic.

Often he struck the note of high patriotism, and many are his poems that deal with the mysteries of life and death. He wrote fit and beautiful theologies, and in his verse one comes constantly upon startling hints and suggestions concerning nature, human fate and the spirit world, as in "Ren-der," "Identity," "I Vex Me Not With Brooding on the Years," "A Mood" and "Apparitions," poems which have a new poignancy in the light of his departure.

APPARITIONS.
At noon of night and at the night's pale end
Such things have chance to me
As one, by day, would scarcely tell a friend
For fear of mockery.
Shadows, you say, mirages of the brain!
I know not, faith, not I.
Is it more strange the dead should walk
Than that the quick should die?

Aldrich ought to have lived longer and continued to write for many years to come, for he was in little danger of falling in taste and rigid self criticism. But, after all, his life had a remarkable completeness. His boyish attainments of fame made him not less but more careful in his art from the beginning. There never was a time when he did not hold himself to the standard of not less for himself than for others. With increasing years his touch grew more assured and his imagination deeper.
Neither in his genial prose writing nor in his verse was fully reflected the wit which made personal intercourse with him a rare privilege. For private conversation was reserved the treasure of his whimsical and never failing humor. Doubtless many of his sallies will be jotted down by friends and preserved by his biographer, but the manner of his appealing persiflage and illuminating witticisms can never be reproduced.

Nor can he hold yet the story of his chief happiness—that of life of inseparable affection which helped to make his career one of the most fortunate in the annals of literature.—Century.

"Throwing a Chest" Injuries.
It cannot be repeated too often that the more that appalling system of chest swelling was practiced the greater was the invaliding for circulatory diseases, the foot guards, who were more "set up" than the line, always hending the list for invaliding for these diseases. And who will say of the guards that they were originally defective?
It was hopeless to expect men to be content and not to take any opportunity to quit the army who felt the injury to health being inflicted on them. They were taught to regard the dilated, rigid chest as essential, that soldiering could not be thought of without it! Happily we have changed all that. What mainly stood between the army and popularity was interference with natural breathing.—F. A. Day, M. D., Lieutenant Colonel Late Army Medical Corps, in London Spectator.

Reformed Baseball.
"The gentleman is safe," said the umpire.
"I beg your pardon, but he seemed to be out," said the field captain, sauntering in from short.
"A thousand pardons, but he beat the throw about a yard," the umpire insisted.
The base runner was called up, and the umpire took a Bible out of his pocket and swore him.
"Now, were you out?" asked the umpire.
"I was," the base runner admitted, whereupon the audience fell to talking of the old days of lies, fines and arbitrary decisions.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Yes, Indeed.
A man may have a heart big enough to love two women at one time, but he ought to have more head.—Smart Set.

General Jackson Liked Lomons.
"Just now," an old Confederate soldier recently remarked, "a very popular expression of rather indefinable meaning is to say that one 'was hand-ed a lomon,' but literally you could not have better pleased Stonewall Jackson. General Jackson's fondness for lomon was something remarkable, and he was never without them if they could possibly be obtained. Very often during the war they were not to be had, and he missed them greatly. When he could get hold of one—and every one in his command knowing his fondness for them—was always on the lookout for the fruit—he would bite off the end and suck happily until the pulp was quite dry."—Harper's Weekly.

KNOW THE BENDER FAMILY.
John Keepers Aided in the Search For the Murderers.
Periodically the report goes over the country that the notorious Bender family of Kansas has been found, but always the rumor is found to be false. "They will never be found," said John Keepers, an ex-Kansan, now living in Kansas City. "When the Benders left their farm in Crawford county, Kan., in 1873, after their crimes had been discovered, they are supposed to have gone into the Indian Territory. It is almost an absolute certainty that the Benders were all killed and buried by outlaws like themselves. The Benders knew too much—that's why they were killed."

"I was one of the party of men that went to the Bender home when a search was being made for Dr. York of Independence, a brother of Colonel A. M. York of Fort Scott. We met old man Bender at the gate and told him our errand. He said he had been shot at by highwaymen a few days before on the Verdigris river, a few miles distant. That let us off on a false scent. When we came back, ten days later, the Benders had disappeared. The discovery of their flight was made by a neighbor named Pierce. He told others, and a search of the premises was begun. We found a trapdoor in the floor, and below it, in the cellar, the gravel flooring was stained with blood. In the garden we found several places where the earth had sunk. The most recent appearing of these dug into and found there the body of Dr. York. We sounded all the other dead persons with an iron rod and in that way found sixteen bodies. If I remember rightly, a total of 104 persons were reported missing in that neighborhood. Of course we never knew whether the Benders had killed them all, for the bodies were not found. But I believe if we had made closer search at the time we could have found many more graves. All of the murders occurred in the fall of 1872 and the winter and spring of 1873."

"The Benders kept a store and hotel for travelers, though I don't believe they ever had more than \$10 worth of goods in the store at any one time, and I don't believe any traveler who stopped there ever lived to continue his journey. If he wasn't murdered in his sleep, he was killed at the dining table."
Mr. Keepers does not credit the story that the Benders were killed by a lynching party not far from their home. "If that had been," he said, "I would have known about it. There was a big reward for each member of the family, dead or alive, and if they had been killed some one would have claimed the reward. There is more probability in the story of a Cherokee Indian, who while hunting along a tributary of the Verdigris about twenty-five miles south of the Kansas line, witnessed what many people believe to have been the finish of the Benders. The Indian said he saw an old man and an old woman, with a younger couple, camped around a covered wagon. A band of twenty men came upon them suddenly and killed every one, burned the wagon and outfit and then left."—Kansas City Star.

The Automatic Man.
The death of Carlstadt of Theodor Rosenfeld reminds the Nene Frele Presse of the fact that he was the man who some years ago set all Vienna talking about King Fu, the "automatic man." This "most wonderful piece of mechanism ever produced by human hands" was in the form of a Chinese giant, posed on a pedestal. The latter there was a complicated by clockwork, which was wound up by Rosenfeld at the beginning of each performance. Then people in the audience would ask questions, and the mechanical man would write the answers on strips of paper. The performances were so clever that King Fu and his master were invited to the imperial residence, where they mystified all who saw them. The contrivance was similar to the one shown in Vienna a hundred years before by Wolfgang von Kempelen, only his was a chess playing Turk. In both cases a dwarf confederate and not the clockwork did the trick.

The Case in Point.
"When universal peace is finally established," said Alfred H. Love, the president of the universal peace union, in an interview in Philadelphia, "then many a man who now ridicules the peace movement will claim to have been its lifelong champion."
"It is always so. We thump and kick a poor, weak, struggling movement at its inception, and when it has succeeded and no longer needs our help we give it the most selfish support."
"There was once a young lady whose betrothed, a very poor young man, was about to set out for South America to seek his fortune in the rubber trade. "As he took leave of her the night before his departure he said tremulously: "And you swear to be true to me, Irene?"
"Yes, Heber," cried the girl; "yes—if you're successful!"

Romance of the Bible Houses.
From the huge building in Astor place in New York city authority radiates to the uttermost ends of the earth. Let its directors say the word and cargoes of Bibles, marvelously printed in the quaintest and most barbarous of tongues, will go on camels or elephants crashing through the jungles of Africa and Asia; on queer little llamas over the great passes of the Andes between Bolivia and Peru; on the heads of camels circling around the base of the Mountains of the Moon, near the source of old Father Nile; on camel back across the burning deserts of Nubia and Arabia the Stony, or in flat bottomed boats towed by man with bamboo cables through the deep gorges of the Yangtze river.—Circle Magazine.

The Zionist Movement.
The eighth Zionist congress will be held at Boston in August. In a call issued by the Rev. Dr. J. L. Magnus it is stated that this will be "the first real Palestine congress of the movement." The call also says: "All differences as to the fundamental principles governing the movement have been settled. The work of real construction for and in Palestine has begun. The eighth congress will therefore be an important one, inasmuch as Palestine will be the center of actual interest." Dr. Magnus, on the other hand, says that the differences in the ranks of the Zionists have never been greater than now, and the American Israelite, showing its opposition to the un-American movement, says: "That the Zionists can be a power for evil they have demonstrated at the Hebrew Union college. Now let them point to some good that they have accomplished."

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South-Bound Trains.

	47	49	45	46
Leave	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
New York	7:30	9:00	12:15	12:30
Philadelphia	10:00	11:25	7:45	8:00
Wilmington	11:00	12:25	8:45	9:00
Baltimore	9:00	7:50	6:35	6:50
Delmar	1:25	3:01	11:55	12:00
Salisbury	1:35	3:10	12:10	12:15
Cape Charles	3:55	6:00	3:55	6:00
Old Point Comfort	5:50	7:50	5:50	7:50
Exposition Pier	6:10	8:10	6:10	8:10
Norfolk (arrive)	7:00	9:00	7:00	9:00

North-Bound Trains.

	48	50	40	41
Leave	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Norfolk	7:20	9:45	5:45	7:30
Exposition Pier	8:10	9:40	6:40	8:20
Old Point Comfort	8:30	7:10	7:10	8:30
Cape Charles	10:30	9:45	11:00	11:00
Salisbury	12:52	12:37	7:00	7:05
Delmar	1:12	12:50	7:20	7:25

Arrive

	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Philadelphia	3:40	5:10	11:00	8:00
Baltimore	5:22	6:01	11:35	8:15
New York	7:00	8:00	1:15	10:30

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